## PDP Govs. In High Level Meeting with Atiku and Stakeholders



### **PDP GOVERNORS**

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## HARDSHIPS ON FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL:

## PDP GOVERNORS ON RESCUE MISSION WITH MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS



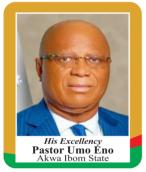
### **SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT**

BAYELSA: Gov. Diri's Game Changing Projects and Policies

### **PDP GOVERNORS**

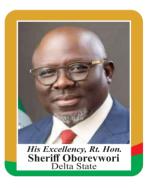


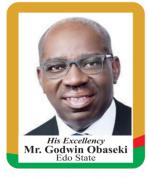










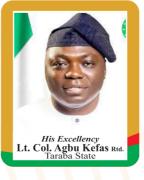
















# FUEL SUBSIDY

**GOVERNOR DOUYE DIRI ROLLS OUT PALLIATIVES FOR BAYELSANS** 

n Bayelsa State, the Prosperity Government led by His Excellency, Lenator Douye Diri, has rolled out palliatives in the area of transportation, wage increase, food relief and others to cushion the economic hardship caused by the removal of fuel subsidy in May 2023 by the All Progressive Progress (APC)-led Federal Government.

#### **WORKER'S WAGES:**

The State Government started the payment of special wage award to all Local Government employees with effect from August 2023.

#### BY INNOCENT IMOH



106 vehicles acquired for fuel subsidy removal transportation palliative for Bayelsans

The State Government, in collaboration with the Local Government Councils, have also ensured the payment of gratuities to council retirees who were yet to be paid.

Also, the government approved the payment of 30% of gratuities across board for all other retirees. which also started in August 2023.

Further details of the wage award approval by Governor Diri for Local Government workers show that council workers on Grade Level one to six now earn N20,000 as additional salary; Grade Level seven to ten, N30,000; while those on Grade Level 12 to 14 will now have N40,000 added to their salaries.

The Prosperity Government also approved N50,000 as wage award to council employees on Grade Level 15 to 17, while Heads of Local Government will earn N100,000 as additional salary.

According to Governor Diri, "our plan is for every Local Government retiree to get something at the end of this month (August). We are only going to raise a committee to supervise the payment because we still have some grev areas to address," he said. Sources in the State confirmed that Governor Diri has already approved the plan.

On the ongoing data capturing exercise for the computerisation of staff on the Oracle Payroll System,

the Governor appealed to the workers' union at the Local Government level to be a little bit patient with government to test run the software and make necessary corrections before its full take-off.

The government assured some of the stakeholders that approval would be given for the conduct of the 2023 senior staff promotion exercise at the LGA level, due in 2023, to bring them to be at par with their state counterparts.

Governor Diri added that all of these efforts were to help workers at all levels in the State to cope with the hardships imposed on them by the removal of the subsidy on petrol in the country by the APC Government at the Federal level



#### **TRANSPORTATION**

In the area of transportation, the Prosperity Government unveiled a new transport scheme comprising 106 vehicles (100 taxis and 6 luxurious buses) operated by the Bayelsa State Transport Company (BSTC) to alleviate the sufferings of commuters in the State. The Government said the transportation palliative became necessary to help reduce the burden of transportation on the people.

At the inauguration of the vehicles at DSP Alamieyeseigha Banquet Hall premises on July 19 2023. Governor Diri said the initiative was his administration's palliative to

boost the transportation sector.

The buses will operate from the Bayelsa State Transport Terminal started by his predecessor and completed by his Prosperity Administration.

His words: "This is another historic day as we launch this fleet of transport vehicles to alleviate the suffering of our people.

"Now, we have taxis that will run within the city of Yenagoa and environs to the Niger Delta University at Amassoma, to the airport and the Federal University, Otuoke, and other towns,' adding "I appreciate all Bayelsans for their patience. You know that your government has your welfare at heart."

The Bayelsa helmsman called on youths of the State to take full advantage of the initiative to empower themselves, just as he projected that over 100 youths would be engaged as drivers in the intra-state and intra-city transport scheme.

The Governor also said the scheme will be different from previous government's transport initiatives and urged the management and beneficiaries to make good use of the vehicles to enhance the transport system.



### **SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT**

### **BAYELSA: GOV DIRI'S GAME CHANGING**

**PROJECTS AND POLICIES** 

By Patrick PA Okon and Daniel Alabrah

ith a few months left in the calendar of his first term in office as Governor of Bayelsa State, Governor Douye Diri can chest beat himself for a job well done. On assumption of office as Governor on February 14, 2020, the 'Prosperity Governor, made clear what his immediate priorities were security and enthronement of peace – in the State torn on many fronts by internecine crises and mistrusts by political gladiators.

A different situation and air pervade Bayelsa today. Digging deep into what many now describe as his innate disposition to life, which emphasises unity, peaceful relationship amongst individuals and groups in the State, Governor Diri has gradually but steadily brought all warring political champions to the reconciliation table.

With all political gladiators now working for a common purpose, it became easier for Governor Diri to also bring all warring groups and communities to a common understanding and resolution of issues of differences and agitations.



His message to all has been, "If they preach hate, exude love," and the people hearkened. Consolidating on his peace initiatives, Governor Diri has reinvigorated the security architecture





in the State on many fronts. First, he collapsed the former two co-existing security outfits - Operation Doo-Akpo and the Bayelsa Volunteers into one security force for more meaningful coordination and funding impact.

He approached the State House of Assembly for a

Legislation to back up the merging of the two security outfits. The Act of the State House of Assembly "Bayelsa Community Safety Corps" was signed into law by Governor Diri to demonstrate the seriousness of the government in the merger.

To operationalise its establishment, Governor Diri commissioned 50 state-of-the-art brand-new operationa1

vehicles, 40 motorbikes and various security and communication gadgets for the new security organisation. Hundreds of young and virile youths of the State, some with security experiences, were recruited and trained as a foundation team for the force.

With the new security team in

place up and running and supporting the operations of regular security outfits located in the State, Governor Diri moved on to the provision of other social and development infrastructure. The results have been massive and revolutionary for any

government within a period of four years.



This is not overlooking his "no enemy" guiding principle which has endeared Governor Diri to all and sundry in the State. To the admiration of all. his all - inclusive administration has been a moving vessel carrying everyone along. No wonder his peace and reconciliation overtures to communities have borne remarkable fruits with peace returning to many divided communities including Agudama-Epie and Akenfa communities, a major flashpoint before the arrival of Diri as Governor of the State.

Impressed with the new air of peace and a sense of common purpose amongst political leaders in the State, former President Goodluck Jonathan

> on June 4, 2023, c o m m e n d e d Governor Diri on the restoration of peace a n d infrastructure renaissance in Bavelsa.

> In a goodwill message to him on his 64th birthday, the former President described Governor Diri as a forthright leader committed to the growth and development of Bayelsa State. He noted that since he assumed office more than three

years ago, Governor Diri had surpassed all expectations. He went on to urge Bayelsans to remain focused on supporting the responsible and impactful governance the Governor had brought to bear on the State and its people.





### DIRIS'S -TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS 2020-2023



At his inauguration on February 14, 2020, Governor Douye Diri vowed to turn Bayelsa State into a massive construction site. He has fulfilled that promise by embarking on several projects ranging from roads and bridges to hospitals and healthcare facilities, public buildings as well as policies and programmes that have positively impacted the people of the State.

Below is a compendium of some of the impactful projects, programmes and policies delivered by the Prosperity Administration of Governor Diri in office.

### **CONNECTING COMMUNITIES** AND TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH ROADS—



#### At the three Senatorial Districts

- 22.2km Yenagoa-Oporoma Road (Southern Ijaw LGA)
- 42km Sagbama-Ekeremor Road (Sagbama and Ekeremor LGAs)
- 21km Nembe-Brass Road (Brass and Nembe LGAs)





## **Senatorial District Roads**







A bridge across Silver River, Aguobiri, which is part of the ongoing Yenagoa-Oporoma Road construction



42km section of the Sagbama-Ekeremor Road constructed by the Prosperity Administration



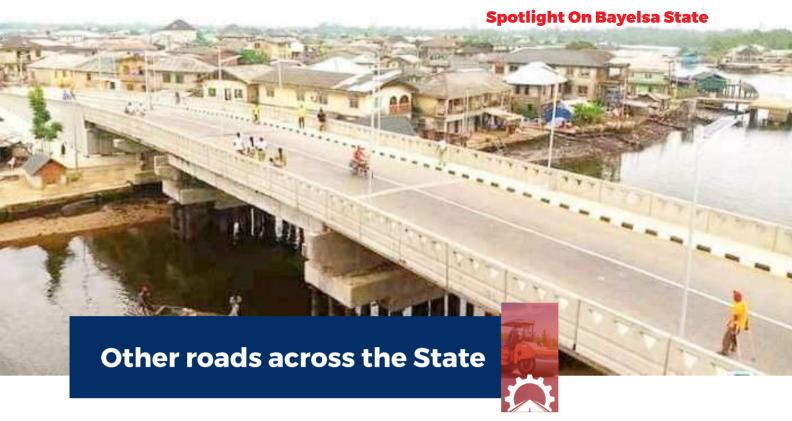
Ongoing bridge construction at Angiama Community, a part of Yenagoa-Oporoma Road project



Gov. Diri inspecting the bridge at Angiama community







- 10.8km Glory Drive Phase II (Yenagoa LGA)
- 21km Elebele-Igbogene Outer Ring Road (Yenagoa LGA)
- 6.5km Igbedi Road and Extension (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- New Yenagoa City Link Road (Yenagoa LGA)
- Toru-Orua-Toru-Ebeni Road (Sagbama LGA)
- Sampou/Kalama Bypass (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- Imiringi Road Rehabilitation (Ogbia LGA)

- Completion of Isaac Boro Road (Yenagoa LGA)
- Upgrade/Extension/Beautification of the Edepie-Etegwe Roundabout (Yenagoa LGA)
- Imiringi Community Bridge (Ogbia LGA)
- Elebele Community Bridge (Ogbia LGA)
- Nembe Unity Bridge (Nembe LGA)
- Prosco Road Completion (Yenagoa LGA)
- Ekeremor Secretariat Road (Ekeremor LGA)
- Shore Protection in Odi Community









#### (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)

- Construction of Spur to Aleibiri Community along Sagbama-Ekeremor Road (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of Road 24 opposite Prosco (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of Spur to Otuan along Yenagoa-Oporoma Road (Southern Ijaw LGA)
- Shore protection and sandfilling projects in Ekeremor (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of road linking Tourist Island
- Continuation of Opolo/AIT Dual

#### **Spotlight On Bayelsa State**

- Carriageway (Yenagoa LGA)
- Rigid Pavement Phase 1 & 2 in Ayamasa (Ekeremor LGA)
- Road, Kuroyo Odi (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- Payouama-Ayaowei Link Road, Odi (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- Concrete Retaining Wall, Sampou Community (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- Construction of Spur to Angalabiri Community (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of Spur to Ayamasa Community along Sagbama-Ekeremor







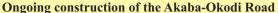


- Road (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of Spur to Toru-Angiama Community (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of Spur to Ekeremor Community (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of Spur to Amanagbene Community
- Construction of Road to Oyobu Community
- Construction of Rigid Pavement in Olugbobiri Community (Southern Ijaw LGA)
- Construction of Rigid Pavement in

- Ayibabiri/ Southern Opokuma Communities
- Construction of Rigid Pavement at Ekowe Community (Southern Ijaw LGA)
- Construction of internal road in Ekeremor
- Construction of Spur to Aleibiri Community (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of Bou-ama to Sangana Road (Brass LGA)
- Construction of Rigid Pavement in Ologeghe Community















## 

- Onuebum-Otuoke Road (Ogbia LGA)
- AIT-Elebele Road and Bridges (Ogbia

LGA)

- Imiringi Road (Ogbia LGA)
- Opokuma Road (Kolokuma/Opokuma

LGA)

- Amassoma Road (Southern Ijaw LGA)
- Trofani Road (Sagbama LGA)
- Sagbama-Tungbo Road (Sagbama

LGA)

Bolou-Orua axis of Sagbama-Ekeremor Road (Sagbama LGA)





Ongoing construction of the Onuebum-Otuoke Road







## CONSTRUCTION OF YENAGOA LGA INTERNAL ROADS

Agilobi Street

Akali Street

Akoi Street

Amalala Close, Azikoro

Asingba Close

Assemblies of God Road, Akenfa

Bishop's Court Road

Chief Kia Road, Edepie

Dimeari Street, Biogbolo

Don Cont Street

Ebikaderi Road

4th Avenue, Ebisam

Egili Road

Gloryland Orphanage Close

Gonibo Street, Swali

Glory of God Drive

Gov't. House Extension Road

Law School Road, Agudama

Mike Epengule Road

Nengi Road off Saipem

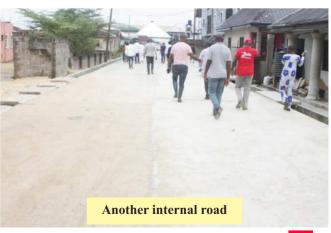
Road off School Road, Okutukutu

Okulagba Street

Old Etegwe Road

Otariya Street off Erepa Road









Royal FM Road, Agudama

School Road, Edepie

St John School Road, Obogoro

Trust J. Akada Road

Human Right Road Open Road, Swali

Market Square Road, Opolo

Gwegwe Street

ShopRite Road, Obogoro

Carl Seiyabo Street

Ompadec/Punch Road

Loveday Avenue off La-Gold Road,

Amarata

New Road off Ebis Road, Biogbolo

Rhoda Hotel Road, Akenfa

School Road Edepie, Phase II

David Alagoa Road, Azikoro

Peace Avenue off Imiringi Road

Omega Street by Jovero Filling Station

School Road, Biogbolo

Refine People's Assembly, Opolo

Tonye Isenah Road

Elderly People's Home Road, Igbogene

Goldcoast Dickson Road off Saipem

Ruthmore Road, Edepie

NLC/TUC Road

Akenfa Road Network

Dumpsite Road, Etelebu



## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



- · Ernest Ikoli Media Complex (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Remodelling and completion of the Bayelsa Transport Terminal (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Judges' Quarters (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Completion of NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- · Finance House (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Labour (NLC/TUC) House (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Civil Servants' Canteen (Yenagoa LGA)
- Ongoing construction of 150 School Buildings across all constituencies in the state
- · Construction of Technical Schools in all

#### 8 LGAs

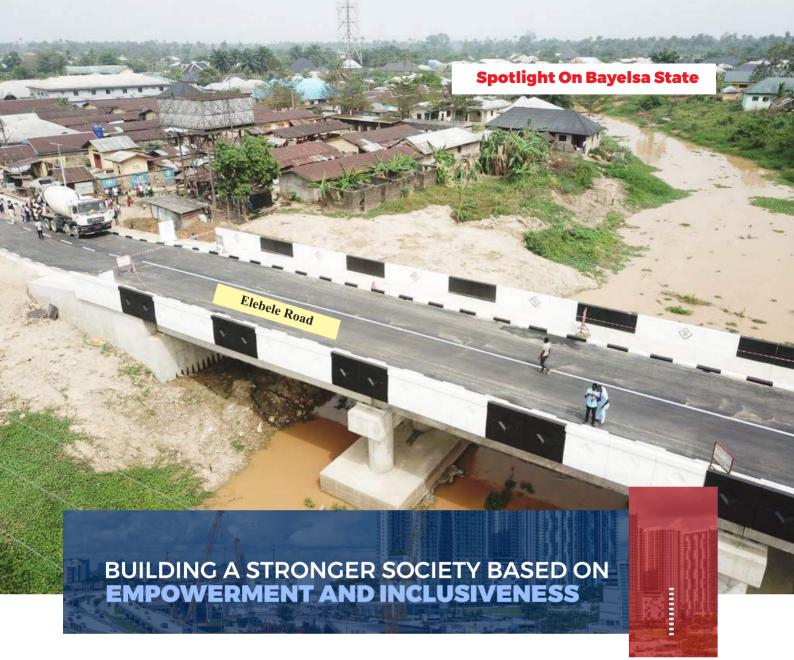
- Landscaping of the New Commissioners' Quarters (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Landscaping of the New House of Assembly Quarters (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Completion of the New Air Force Secondary School at Zarama (Yenagoa LGA)
- · Pavilion at Peretorugbene Community (Ekeremor LGA)
- · Pavilion at Ekeremor (Ekeremor LGA)
- · Pavilion at Odi Community (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- · Pavilion at Sampou Community (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)



**Judges Quarters** 







- Construction of Corps Members Lodge at Liama (Brass LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Egweama (Brass LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Beletiama (Brass LGA)
- Construction of concrete road, Beach Way, Okpoama (Brass LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Minibie (Brass LGA)
- Construction of landing jetty at Fish Town (Brass LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Aleibiri (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Ayamasa (Ekeremor)
- Construction of concrete link bridge at

Peretorugbene (Ekeremor)

- Construction of concrete link bridge at Ekeremor(EkeremorLGA)
- Construction of concrete link bridge at Amabolou (Ekeremor)
- Construction of concrete landing jetty at Agbidiama (Ekeremor LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Odi (Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA)
- Construction of concrete landing jetty at Oyobu (Southern Ijaw)
- Construction of concrete road at Ogbolomabiri (Nembe LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Bassambiri (Nembe LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Oluasiri (Nembe LGA)



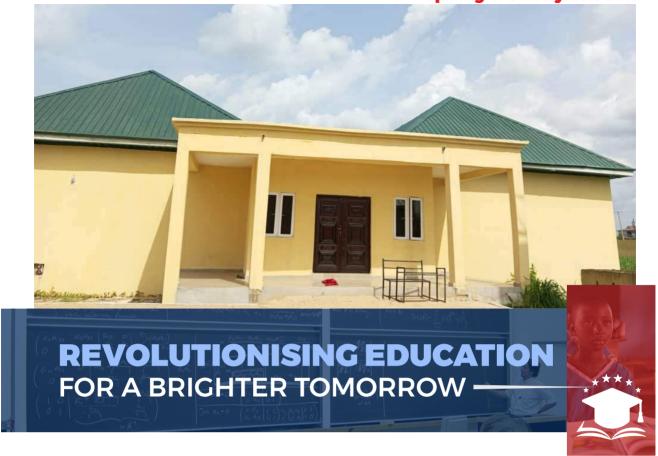


- Construction of concrete road at Iselegono (Nembe LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Okoroba (Nembe LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Abobiri (Ogbia LGA)
- Construction of pavilion at Emadike (Ogbia LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Oruma (Ogbia LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Ofoni (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of Town Hall at Kabeama (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of Town Hall at Akeddei (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of Pavilion at Tungbo (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Amatolo (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Angiama (Southern Ijaw LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Ludoun (Southern Ijaw)
- Construction of concrete road at

- Igbomotoru (Southern Ijaw)
- Construction of concrete road at Akaba-Ogu (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Bumoundi (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Egbebiri-Biseni (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of concrete road/electrification at Erepa Road (Yenagoa LGA)
- Reconstruction/Asphalting of Ateso Street, Opolo (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of concrete walkway at Wodu Street, Opolo (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Kpansia Market Road (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of Mini-Town Hall at Oyobu Community (Southern Ijaw)
- Construction of two concrete roads at Agbere Community (Sagbama LGA)
- Construction of concrete road at Ayama Town (Ekeremor LGA)







- Sustaining free education policy at the primary and post-primary levels
- Sustaining the Bayelsa State Education Trust Fund and inaugurating a Board to manage the scheme
- Sustaining the Bayelsa State Higher Education Loan Scheme through which the tuition fees of more than 10,000 Bayelsa students in higher institutions in Nigeria has been paid
- Construction of three Information Communication and Technology (ICT) centres at the Bayelsa Medical University, Bayelsa State College of Health Technology, Otuogidi and the Ijaw National Academy, Kaiama
- Partnership with Microsoft for training of 12,000 teachers in ICT
- Implementation of the teaching and learning of Ijaw language in all public primary and secondary schools in the State





- Successful accreditation of all programmes offered at the state-owned Niger Delta University, Amassoma
- Accreditation of programmes at the School of Nursing & Midwifery and upgrade to a college status
- Accreditation of programmes at the Bayelsa State College of Health Technology, Otuogidi
- Accreditation of programmes at the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (IITH) and approval for admission through JAMB
- Accreditation of 10 programmes at the Bayelsa Medical University
- Approval of 10 programmes at Isaac Jasper Boro College of Education, Sagbama, and its affiliation to the Niger Delta University

Construction of eight-classroom storey building with six offices and 12 toilets in six new schools within Yenagoa metropolis:

Obogoro Community: Eight-classroom

- storey building with six offices and 12 toilets
- Yenizue-epie Community: Eightclassroom storey building with six offices and 12 toilets
- Igbogene Community: Eightclassroom storey building with six offices and 12 toilets
- Akenfa Community: Eight-classroom storey building with six offices and 12 toilets
- Biogbolo Community: Eightclassroom storey building with six offices and 12 toilets
- Ovom Community: Eight-classroom storey building with six offices and 12 toilets
- Construction of model school at Agudama-Epie
- Construction of science and technical colleges at Ayamasa, Sampou, Opume, Igbeta-Iwoma, Ofoni and upgrade of the technical school at Swali





Eight-classroom blocks at Community Secondary School, Obogoro, in Yenagoa Local Government Area





at the Bayelsa Medical University (BMS)









under the skills acquisition programme

Robust Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme to empower young entrepreneurs through provision of funding, mentorship and training to help them start and grow their businesses.

- Monthly Grants To SMEs: This programme provides support of N200,000 monthly to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the 105 wards of the State. There are four beneficiaries in each ward monthly. Over 3,000 SMEs have so far benefited from the scheme.
- Bayelsa State Incubation Hub: This provides a supportive environment for young entrepreneurs to develop their business ideas. The incubation hub offers mentorship, work space and funding to young entrepreneurs.
- Youth Agribusiness Programme: This aims to promote agriculture among youths. The government provides land, seedlings and other necessary inputs, as well as training and support fund to help them become agripreneurs. About 1,000 youths have so far been trained at the CSS Integrated Farms in Nasarawa State and are being supported to set up agribusinesses in order to become self-reliant and employers of labour.





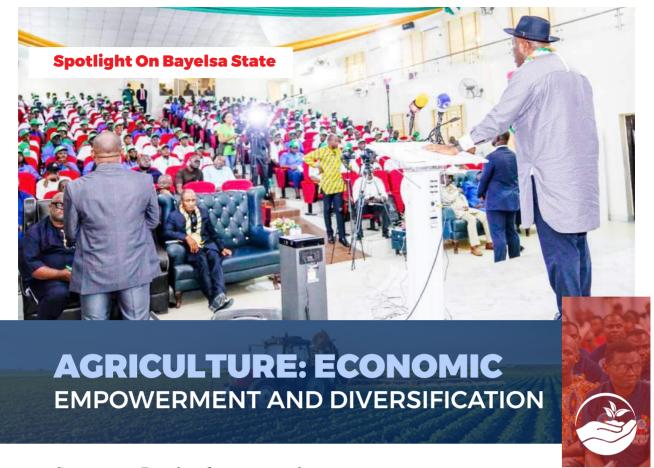


### **WORKERS' WELFARE**

- Approval of payment of annual salary step increment
- Provision of funds for the Civil Service Commission to conduct 2022 promotion exercise
- Implementation of 2021 promotion
- Payment of call duty allowances to specialist nurses as approved in 2014
- Systematic reduction of backlog of unpaid gratuity by releasing N200 million monthly and sometimes, N400m
- Building of NLC and TUC permanent secretariat
- Building of Civil Servants Restaurant







- Support to Bayelsa farmers to plant cassava, rice and plantain
- Establishment of rice farms at Otuasega, Amassoma and School-to-Land, Yenagoa
- Allocation of land and provision of seedlings to 3,500 farmers in the eight local government areas in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).
- Installation of rice mills at Niger Delta University, Amassoma, and Federal University, Otuoke
- Continuation and completion of the Cassava (Starch) Processing Factory at Ebedebiri (Sagbama LGA)
- Rehabilitation of the 500-Pond Fish Farm at Yenigwe (ongoing)











- Delivery of medicines to communities with drones under a partnership with Zipline
- New complex for Bayelsa Health Insurance Scheme
- Completion of Kaiama Referral Hospital
- Completion of Ekeremor Referral Hospital
- Upgrade of Health Centre at Ayamasa
- Health Centre in Egwe-ama (Brass LGA)
- New Psychiatric Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre (Ogbia LGA)
- Mother and Child Hospital, Azikoro in

collaboration with the SDGs office, Abuja

- Renovation and upgrade of Azikoro Health Centre
- Overhaul and renovation of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Tombia-Ekpetiama (Yenagoa LGA)
- Construction of Community School of Midwifery at Sampou
- Free Medical Outreach to floodimpacted communities in the eight local government areas







Gov. Diri inspects patrol motorcycles for men of the Community Safety Corps

- The administration has engaged and employed over 200 Bayelsans through the Bayelsa State Community Safety Corps
- Continuation of the Bayelsa Volunteers and Bayelsa Vigilante with over 2000 youths engaged.



## **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT -**INVESTING IN THE YOUTHS AND SECURING BAYELSA'S FUTURE



#### Automatic Employment for **Sportsmen**

The automatic employment policy proposed by Senator Diri for excellent sports persons in his capacity as a principal figure in the sports sector in the past is still resonating well through the sector as most of the people drafted into gainful employment have gone ahead to continue to empower the youth starting from the grassroots to higher levels.

It doesn't take rocket science to draw a parallel on how engaged youths affect the downward drive of crime rate or occurrence. Indeed, such strategy has proven to be a masterstroke.













#### Other achievements under this sector



- Consistent reward for Bayelsa athletes that made the State and Nigeria proud at National and International competitions.
- Under Governor Diri, Bayelsa United and Bayelsa Queens won the 2021 NFF/AITEO Cup in the male and female categories, a feat no state in Nigeria had previously achieved.
- At the National Sports Festival, Bayelsa came third for the first time at Edo 2021 and improved on the record a year after at Delta 2022 where the State came second on the medals table.
- At the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, with support of the State Government, Bayelsaborn Blessing Oborududu made Nigeria proud by winning a silver medal in wrestling.
- In 2021, Bayelsa Queens emerged champions of the Nigerian professional women league. In 2022, the team represented Nigeria in the Africa Women Champions League, won the West African Football Union (WAFU) Zone B qualifying tournament in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast and eventually placed third on the continent during Champions League hosted by Morocco

- The administration has ensured consistent development of football at the grassroots by sponsoring the biggest grassroots football tournament in Nigeria, the Prosperity Cup. The 2023 edition had 214 participating teams.
- With right investment and support, Bayelsa United gained promotion to the elite Nigerian Professional Football League in 2022 after seven years in the lower league
- The State recorded great exploits in secondary school basketball with Bishop Dimeari Grammar School (BDGS) and St. Jude's Girls Secondary School, winning the 2022 edition of the Milo National Schools Basketball Competition in Lagos. Both teams represented Nigeria at the World School Basketball competition in Belgrade, Serbia, with BDGS ranked sixth in the world and St. Jude's ranked 9th.
- In athletics, Bayelsa-born prodigy, Timma Godbless, broke the National Junior Record in 100 metres in Cali, Colombia during the 2022 World Junior Athletics Championship. She earlier won gold in the 4 x 100 relay at the African Senior Athletics Championship in Mauritius in 2022.







### BAYELSA TRANSPORT TERMINAL













